

# **Gang Violence in Wilmington**

## **November 4, 2013**

### **City Hall, Council Chambers**

*Following are verbatim responses to input provided on handouts from participants attending the Nov. 4 meeting.*

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**Following are key factors identified to contribute to gun/ten violence and their participation in gangs. Are these the right factors? If not, what do you think are the key factors?**

- Mentoring! Student organizations of difference ethnicities.
- Welfare system created a home where the father did not have to be present or provide for his family. Responsibility – define manhood
- Racism, lack of understanding/empathy
- Mental health/learning disabilities/SA/parents with MH & SA- drugs bring gangs (fast money)
- No alpha males in house
- Media – markets violence, parenting out of wedlock, etc.
- Where there is UNITY there is strength
- Crime generative factors!
- The big factor in violence is with the teens because they have younger siblings and the parents aren't attending to them enough so they turn to the gangs for love because they don't get love.
- Hope – Vision, dream, support system. What can we do? Mentor, advocate. Socioeconomic problem
- Lack of support, broken families
- Community support, churches, school volunteers, community judge/give up, \*territory - not
- 2000, 800 in 12, Comm. BIG Club, Outside the Wall
- Big B 97.3 Coast and other give testimonials, NAACP Chris spoke, couple members spoke, gang work discussing care issues
- Yes, we feel that this discussion should be centered around VIOLENCE in general – not just gang violence. We aren't sure that all of the recent activity is gang related. Focus on being proactive!

- Father in the household
- Attention, conversation, ignored, lack of accountability
- Family, health, education, economics, key stakeholders
- Hopelessness, despair, media (negative portrayal)
- Fathers in the house
- More development
- Attention – economics – not organized, community center – closed
- Racism, police, understanding/empathy/ Not in My Back Yard, youth stereotyping
- These are the right factors, but, I would add racism as a continuing factor
- Family support, health, education, economics, racism, understanding/empathy
- Racism, understanding, stereotyping, justice system
- Racism, lack of empathy
- This discussion did not address the current problem – which is how to stop and address the current gang situation. This discussion was good for future intervention, but did nothing to address the current problem.
- People raise thousands of dollars to go to foreign countries to do outreach, go back to the kids, but none of this has to do with kids

## **FAMILY**

### **WHAT: Primary Issues**

- Lack of father figures. COMMUNICATION High demand of young black males
- Young people
- Poor parenting
- Single parent households
- Parents, under 12, male role models, mothers a young age
- WHA – single parents w/under 12 yr olds, guidelines – need mentors
- Single parents
- Single parent families, young mothers
- Single parent family, school dropout, young parents & younger, mentors
- Parenting – lack of parenting skills. What is manhood?

- Affordable early child care for working mothers. Role models for parents – parenting skills are needed.
- Both stable male and female. But some stable male should be in every household. If not father, grandfather, uncle, cousin, brother – at one stable male figure – Welfare family or not make the exception
- Overwhelmed, lack of family support, young families, support lacking, sensitivity/economic pressures, institutional
- Children having children, single parents – appropriate/adequate leadership, lack of positive role models, lack of adequate supervision & discipline
- Males are missing in homes, mothers are not mother, marketing violence, recruiting at skating rings, movies, neighborhoods
- Alpha males are missing/younger parents, grandparents raising children/values and instilling hope
- Fathers lacking in families, parents lacking values need support
- Alpha males are missing, single parent households, stop ABDICATING the leadership
- Fatherless – without God’s design for the family, the family is at a much higher risk of failure
- Fatherless and absent males (alpha males among elephants) 96% of leaseholders in Creekwood are female (according to Star News)
- Single parent homes, father figure, values, respect, principle – taught in the family
- Dysfunctional family, absent or neglecting parent(s) (negligent)
- Schools, community centers, the system
- Poverty, young families, no direction
- Broken family, guidance – poverty, dream , spiritual support – church – watchdog (program in school)
- Lack of family support, lack of values, fatherlessness, family structure
- Lack of family support, broken families, guidance, trust
- Guidance, DREAMS, support, spiritual foundation, values, fatherlessness, time and attention, parental training, structure, single family households
- Broken families – fatherless, guidance, foster – multiple – adjudicated, trust, how to parent education, Common Core, DREAMS, time and attention, values
- Watchdogs, support, guidance
- Single parent home, parental engagement/support/supervision, drugs, alcohol, abuse/domestic violence

- Single family homes, lack of stability, adequate support levels, drugs and alcohol, domestic violence
- Single parent home/lack of proper role models/support engagement/drugs/alcohol/DOM/neglect
- Single parent home (absence of male role model), lack of support, partial involvement engagement, drugs/alcohol, domestic violence in the home
- Single parent homes, lack of position m/f role models, lack of support, powerful, involvement, engagement, supervision, D&A in the home, DV, abuse issues w/in home
- Single parent homes, lack of positive male role models, lack of support, drugs and alcohol, domestic violence
- Single parent families, lack of male role models, lack of support, drugs and alcohol, abuse, domestic violence
- Lack of adult involvement, absent males, parenting skills, lack of trust in system, retaliation, fear
- Adult supervision/involvement, absent positive role models, trust/fear, mentor, parent advocate
- Lack of education in the household, there's no structure, the parents of today, are not the parents of yesterday.
- External resources, internal resources
- Single household, family structure
- Lack of fathers, lack of guidance discipline, single parent homes
- Breakdown in the family such as single parenting, lack of exposure out of the community, lack of support
- Single family homes
- Under educated parents without skills, weak family support structure, help single parents, parental fear of older kids who resist discipline, identify isolated single parents who are alone and put in contact with others
- Communication
- Stop being child friends, stop giving children choices, communication, lack of fathers in home, education, under education, suspensions, school board doesn't share information about student's stats, programs are children – but student doesn't have means to get there
- Togetherness, love, respect, truth, parenting
- Food, clothing, shelter, parent, involvement, childcare
- Dysfunctional – moral values, extended family, time, love
- Parental discipline, accountability

- Children having children, positive role models, parents drug users
- Broken families, impoverished families, lack of discipline
- Lack of male role models or positive role models, home alone, teen pregnancy, substance abuse
- Children having children, single parents, substance abuse, being home alone, lack of discipline
- Lack of male mentors (positive), single parent households, substance use disorder
- Lack of adequate guidance from mothers/fathers or single parent families, children having children
- We need to determine who the family is, redefine who family is – it can be the surrounding community, the community needs to be more intentional, segregation vs. isolation, access to income, employment and advocacy within, we have lost the heroes in the neighborhood, sustainability
- Enrich family, time and love
- Mentoring, family values, community structure, giving back, support system, you
- Love, lack identity, lack of respect for individual culturally and racially and how the individual is perceived, family, racial divide, lack of resources for people: schools = best, shelter, food, no options lead to by and men responsible to survive or be accepted socially, fund law enforcement instead of program for people, provide resources and services

## **FAMILY**

### **WHO: Key Stakeholders**

- Offer family mentoring programs
- Parents, grandparents, neighbors, community
- Neighborhood, city
- Parents, grandparents
- Parents, elders
- Parents, grandparents
- Parents, grandparents, neighbor
- Higher Voice Movement – speaking to the inner self
- Parents & grandparents
- Mother, father, children
- Children/parents, grandparents
- Children at Heart

- Church
- Nuclear family members, neighborhood, community, society
- Churches, the system
- Church – teachers – coaches (village) Can't say it not your kid. Build relationships – have family trust
- Parents, teachers, coaches, public servants
- Children, teen, adults, teachers, coaches, neighbors, village
- Children, teens, adults, pastors
- Children, teachers, teens, coaches, adults, neighbors, clergy, non-profits, the village, police
- Community, teacher
- Parents, grandparents, caretakers, siblings, community, church, school
- All people in the family
- Family/community/church/schools, justice system
- Parents, siblings, grandparents, community, churches, schools (siblings have impact on younger)
- Community, schools, church, justice system, county & city, family members, siblings, etc
- Everybody, church, schools, church
- Everyone (community), immediate household
- Parents, children
- Mothers, teachers
- Parents, relatives, neighbors – lock up your medicine cabinets
- Community, school, organizations
- Parents, teachers
- Teachers, parents, pastors, grandma, grandpa, you, your
- Parents, kids
- Fathers, mothers, community
- Families need to stand strong together
- Families, community, elected officials
- Families, community
- Community, family, kids
- Families, community, policy makers

- Families, parents
- The children, parents, grandparents, community they reside in

## **FAMILY**

### **WHERE: Resources available to help**

- Get info out
- WRAAP after school programs, Boy's Club funding, neighbors, DREAMS
- Neighbors
- Boys Girls Club, organizations, cut backs
- Develop parenting skills – Parenting Classes
- Resource Program, i.e. LITE Build, Community College Programs
- CAPP, OTVX, KMI, B&G Clubs, YMCA, LINK, Youth Build, Smart Start
- Link, Lite youth build
- Mentoring agencies, Communities in Schools/Outside the Walls/DREAMS
- The Church
- Church, mentoring programs
- Churches, social services
- The resources, job fairs
- Programs, Police, non-profit, funding
- Church, nonprofit org
- Church, community, schools, non-profits, police, law enforcement PALS
- Non-profit, church, Police
- Church, schools/volunteers
- Non-profits, police
- Church, community center, daycare
- Church, community centers
- Churches, community centers
- Churches, community centers, daycares, afterschool programs
- Church, community centers, day cares
- Churches, community center
- Churches, community center

- Churches, CIS/Babyfast, Social Services/DSS, B & G Club, WIC. Smart Start
- Health Dept, schools, First 2000 days (Smart Start), DSS, Comm. Boys/Girls, faith based groups, DREAMS, mentorship
- Boys Club/Girls Club/YMCA
- Parenting classes, getting parent educated, DC Virgo, CAAP
- LINC, YMCA, YWCA
- Home, church, schools, programs, yourself
- Housing
- Inexpensive childcare unavailable
- Mom & dad need to do more
- Smart Start, mentors, teachers, Coastal Horizon, LINC, Comm. Boys & Girls Club, Elected Officials, Kids Making IT, child advocacy, Outside the Walls, Youthbuild, YMCA, YWCA
- Nonprofits, government
- CAPP, Smart Start, teachers/schools, Coastal Horizons, Blue Ribbon Commission, Outside the Walls, Hillcrest Community Campus, CIS BabyFAST, Kids making It, Boys & Girls Club (Brigade & Comm.), YMCA, YWCA
- Coastal Horizons, Parenting Place, teachers, Outside the Walls, Youthbuild, Communities in Schools, Kids Making It, Boys & Girls Clubs, policy makers, Smart Start, Child Advocacy
- DREAMS, teachers, KMI, CISCF, YWCA, Coastal Horizons, Boys & Girls Clubs, Smart Start, CAPP, OTW, nils
- Boys/girls clubs, YMCA, YWCA, youth groups, church groups, Kids Making It
- Outside the Walls

## EDUCATION

### WHAT: Primary Issues

- School push out (expulsion) -> out on the streets (hopeless) Offer alternatives to expulsion. Expulsion punishes children – withholding education should not be an option.
- Lack of transportation to after school programs
- Drop out at 16
- Drop out at 16, vocational education, sex education, Black History, character education
- Black History, shop gone, vocational ed gone, rec gone, language gone
- Dropout rate



- Drop out at 16, high poverty kids grouped, “Black History” taught, no recreation in summer, after school
- Responsibility
- Segregated schools, poorly paid teachers, ^Black History
- Historical disconnect, citizenship classes, mentoring both male and female
- Unequal education, unprepared to start school, poverty, (hunger)
- Mentoring, tutors
- Pushing through high school
- Unaddressed learning disabilities, judgmental teachers, dropout rate @ 16 increased # kids dropping out, lack of opportunities
- No mentors, 16 yr/o dropout, high poverty grouped together, black history, summer education
- \*Stop allowing children the choice if they go to school or not.
- Are some schools targets for failure?
- Pressure in some pockets/cultures NOT to succeed
- Support our teachers so they can support our students, use the schools as a means to educate the parents – get the parents to the schools
- No education, mis-education
- The schools don’t have enough time to learn lessons and the extra things that they have
- Grass roots teaching, literacy, parenting & kids, dropout, self esteem, job skill, vocational school, black history, lack of rec programs in summer.
- Literacy, dropout rate
- Lack of education, literacy, parenting ed, common core, dropout prevention, vocational schools
- No real grassroots teaching, mentoring, teaching boys how to be a man, literacy, self esteem, job skills, dropout, stay in school, are some schools designed to fail, afterschool programs, vocational training
- Grassroots teaching, literacy – parents and kids, parenting education, black history – identity, high poverty use together, dropout parent, self-esteem, job skills
- Dropout, literacy, self, job-voc
- Suspension, sports, grades, comm. sporting teams, transportation
- Suspensions/rigidity/need vocational training, we need vocational programming
- Kids get put out of school, if the behaviors are disruptive

- LT suspensions of kids who need to be in school, kids not performing on grade level due to many disciplining issues in classrooms and not being prepared for academic success, more emphasis on education for vocational/trades
- Barriers for parents and children
- Initial disparity, well-placed fear and distrust, school-to-prison pipeline
- Are some of our schools designed to fail? Lack of knowledge of programs available, dealing with education gaps in various schools, trust/fear, student readiness, lack of opportunities, ed system
- Parents need to take time and study with the children
- Programs
- Parents are under educated, younger grandparents, no diversity on school boards
- Getting back to the basics
- Bring back vocational education, hire teachers that give more, dropout rate
- Lack of respect and discipline, lack of parental involvement in schooling, connect spiritual substance to education, develop God conscious – not one religion vs. another, not only Ten Commandments but 200 and Ten, isolate trouble makers and remove
- Mis-education, under education, disproportionate suspension rates, school to prison pipeline factors, parent adversary
- High dropout rate/parent conferences, lack of after school programs, lack of summer school program, programs for children – but students do not have the means to go
- Giving choices, learning, living life and respecting oneself and another
- Values – how to functional illiterate parent educate their children
- Need more programs like WRAAP. WRAAP had 5 full time staff and served 135 adolescents last year, but fewer grants have caused this important organizations to have to downsize and serve fewer adolescents
- Tough love
- Legislature – not giving resources, unequal education, dropout rate, disproportionate minority contact, economics, health & human services, lack of cultural training, overwhelming teachers/ratio
- Unequal education in Wilmington
- Unequal education in Wilmington, overtaxed teachers, dropout rate, lack of believing in kids, disproportionate contact (need more black male teachers), ineffective discipline, lack of cultural training, lack of school funding

- Unequal education in Wilmington, technology, too many kids in classroom, early dropout, not believing in kids, disproportionate minority contact, using teaching moments, civics – knowing issues, opening schools on weekends
- Unequal education, poverty (hunger)
- Early dropout rate
- Schools should provide love, food, discipline, and education >> if not fulfilled by direct family

## EDUCATION

### WHO: Key Stakeholders

- After school programs, friendly, DREAMS
- Society, weight on social programs
- Drop out at 16, hi poverty kids grouped
- Parents, teachers, government
- Parents, grandparents, employers, educators, students
- Students/teachers
- Hold classes in high school, lack of education/literacy of parents
- \*Write letters to state to get law changed that 16 yrs cannot drop out\*
- More emphasis on vocational schools
- First Party Subject, family, neighborhood, community, schools
- Extra things like homework
- Parents, gov, school, community leaders
- Schools, colleges, tutors, alum
- Parents, schools, community, City of Wilmington, WPD, housing
- Non-profits, govt, pastors
- Parents, teachers, schools, government, churches, recreation after school, peer-to-peer, teach parents their kids subjects (weekends), civics educ
- Part, schools
- Children/families (transportation)
- School system teaches parenting
- Family, neighbors, teachers, electorate, Bd of Ed
- Parents, children, community – neighbors, school system, board of education, electorate

- Parents, teachers, principals, students
- Parents, teachers, community
- Parents, grandparents, school personnel, employers, students, PTA
- Families, students, employers
- Parents/guardians, employers, school staff, community, kids/students
- PTA, parents, school personnel, employers, students
- Schools, after school programs, parents, family, educators, students, corporate, employers, PTA
- Elementary, Jr & HS students, family, teachers, employers, PTA

## EDUCATION

### WHERE: Resources available to help

- Corp supports
- Communities in schools
- Supt local program, more funds in after school program, vocation alone w/college
- DREAMS Program, Nov 13<sup>th</sup> – 7 pm UNCW – Earl Sheridan
- Family Support Health Economics
- Vocational
- Comm. agencies
- CFEC/UNCW/Lite Manhood
- Change age to drop out
- SODA
- “Cultural Communication” – that term intrigues me. How effective is it for people outside the cultural pocket to come in and “fix” it? Ex: whites coming into mentor blacks – is that as effective as black men mentoring young black men.
- Schools, teachers, parents, extended family, afterschool programs
- Day cares, community center
- Schools, churches, literacy council, resource, philanthropy, political ed, soc econ policy of all peer – NAACP
- Lit programs
- Organizations working together, community boys & girls club, WIA program
- School, church, literacy council

- Schools, nonprofits, govt
- School
- Transportation
- Transportation
- Alternative to sports as they are now
- Their parents
- Transportation, \$, volunteers
- Cape Fear Community College, DSS, Cape Fear Literacy Council, NAACP Intervention/Prevention Outside the Walls
- MLK, churches
- More black history/herstory
- Board of Education
- Community, government, organizations, individuals, mentoring programs
- Mentors, free libraries, Comm. in schools, civics in schools, Outside the Walls, Bd of Education, nonprofits, DREAMS, Youthbuild
- Board of Education, non-profits
- Communities in Schools, UNCW, WHA Community Campus, Outside the Walls, PTA, DREAMS, YMCA, YWCA, library, Board of Education, Blue Ribbon Commission, UNCW Watson College of Education, Big Buddy, Kids Making It, Boys & Girls Club
- Libraries, Communities in Schools, PTA, Board of Ed

## ECONOMICS

### WHAT: Primary Issues

- Vocational education, blue collar jobs
- Need jobs
- Downturn increase crime, lack of jobs; manufacturing
- Felony records prevent employment and education
- Technical training programs
- Lack of wisdom to use resources
- Adequate employment opportunities, living wage, lack of transitional planning
- Need jobs

- Lack of resources/cost of living/lack of jobs/entrepreneurship
- Cost of living too high, lack of employment, lack of jobs & benefits, low pay cannot live off of, background harms people
- Lack of training
- Govt rewards irresponsible behavior (more kids -> more \$)
- Unemployment, poverty
- Felines cannot get jobs
- Poverty, employee skills, jobs, volunteer (strongest organization) entre, livable wages, affordable housing – generational poverty, prison re-entry, transition transportation plan
- No job skills, no diploma, transportation, childcare, micro
- Poor, poverty, lack of skills, living wages, generational poverty
- Jobs, transportation, poverty, subsidy program, employability skills, church, living wage, seed \$, choices and alternatives, rap sheet, transitions, childcare
- Poverty, wage livable, new job market
- Jobs, high unemployment, vocational trades, financial literacy/investment
- Living wage/lack of jobs, no transitional program for welfare programs in move up and off assistance
- Half unemployment, vocational tracks/training
- High unemployment, criminal records prevent hiring, need vocational tracts, training/Towest Community need variety of jobs
- Unemployment, no jobs
- High unemployment, lack of jobs
- Lack of jobs, bias and prejudice in hiring, poor re-entry
- Lack of opportunities for all?? (prejudice in hiring equality in job market), education, previous records/activity (no second chances), sustainability
- Resources – see what else is not there/find something they might like to give them something to work for, if the youth see a career or activity outside of their neighborhood might give them a reason or hope to stay out of trouble.
- Poverty line, being impoverished
- Employers should relax criminal records
- Lack of vision toward success and financial security, how is support coming to family, more vocational education
- Hopelessness, despair

- Lack of resources/transportation
- No jobs for black fathers that have felonies
- Free employment training, learning legal hustles, mentors
- Lack of opportunities (jobs), community
- Lack of opportunities to go after other jobs, unemployment, lack of transportation, lack of transition plan, lack of micro money grants and loans
- Lack of jobs, lack of opportunities
- Lack of transportation, lack of jobs, lack of opportunity, lack of hope, lack of affordable housing, no transition from public assistance to self-sufficiency
- Lack of understanding and empathy, lack of transportation, lack of jobs, opportunities lacking, lack of transition plan from public assistance, lack of grants and loans
- Lack of opportunity >> hope, transportation
- Jobs for our youth, lack of transportation, fair & equitable pay for all age groups

## ECONOMICS

### WHO: Key Stakeholders

- Community
- Employers, community
- Community/students/parents
- Businesses need to give people chances & mentor them & let them grow
- Family, public sector
- Felines can't get jobs because their backgrounds, some of those things were so long ago and you're holding them back so they can't succeed in life, but you say you want them to live better
- Business, city, county gov, bus community, employee base devp
- City, businesses
- People who lack skills, people who need employees
- Schools, govt, community college, businesses, state
- Social programs
- Business leaders, Chamber of Commerce, schools, parents, kids
- Families
- Community program directors, hiring managers

- Those who community buy-in
- Employers – stop asking about criminal record
- Employers need more lenient to excons, create programs to remove felonies
- Role models, mentors, tutors
- Vocational rehab, Habitat, LINK, government, economic dev programs
- Employers
- Employers, community, family
- Employers, employees, community
- Employers, community
- Our youth, employees, employers, community as a whole

## ECONOMICS

### WHERE: Resources available to help

- Corporate Community Partners investing in vocational training in schools
- Business comm.
- Businesses hire within community, businesses give people opportunities to climb ladder of success
- Children at Heart – adopting services
- Funds from directors, city/county. UNCW, CFCC, school, business leaders
- Where are they?
- Need more jobs and economic opportunities
- Economic development agencies, government
- Vocational Rehabilitation, LINC, Phoenix Employment, Govt Programs, Economic Dvlp Agencies, YWCA, Making Waves Fdn, Good Shepherd Center
- Vocational rehabilitation, LINC, government programs
- Phoenix Employment, Habitat, YWCA
- Good question – with the unemployment rate today, who does have the answer

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### WHAT: Primary Issues

- Transportation to after school programs to keep kids off the streets.



- Early child hood, basic care, early labels (identity), funding (mental health)
- Cape Fear Comm. College – co-sponsor programs on educational technical skills
- Lack of access to healthy food, lack of access to health care, early pregnancies, mental health
- Education, funding
- Education/functional behavior/funding
- Lack of Mental Health services, lack of education by teachers regarding MH/SA induced issues
- Crisis pregnancy, mental health
- No health care, medical crisis, unhealthy diets and food
- They cost too much
- Mental health, substance abuse, devp disabilities, faith-based, pastoral counseling, insurance, health insurance, equal access, health literacy
- WHAT, depression, SA
- Education, mental illness, insurance, access, politics, access, health literacy, prevention, schools open for weekends
- Criminal justice system is designed to disproportionately affect black males, access to health care, knowledge of available resources
- Health insurance, allow education to services
- Welfare assistance – not crutch, mental health issues
- Identify trouble makers and target reform, targeted family counseling for problem families, keep older kids from younger, kids ID with kids more than adults
- Mental health and physical issues with children
- Not enough outlets
- MLK Center needs more staff and programs, need second recreation center in Maides Park to serve that area of town
- Lack of quality healthcare, addictions, politics, early pregnancies, food desserts – healthy diets, mental health problems
- Mental health problems
- Food Deserts (low access to healthy foods), early pregnancy, lack of mental health services
- Isolation due to lack of job, transportation, money; lack of health care, lack of access to foods, addictions, early pregnancy, mental health, funding/politics
- Food deserts, access

- Early pregnancy, lack of self esteem due to social class, healthy food availability

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### WHO: Key Stakeholders

- Teachers
- Teachers, nonprofit, parents/schools
- Parents/children
- Medicaid, Obama care, Life
- WHA
- Community
- Mental health, doctors, area clinics
- Mental health agencies
- Mental health providers, families, community
- Young men and women, parents, grandparents

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### WHERE: Resources available to help

- Dental vans
- Lifeline Pregnancy, Children@ Heart adoption agency
- Children at Heart – adopting services
- Emergency Room, medical centers
- WHA, Health Dept
- Unity -> strength, justice system bias, racism, political education
- Educating people on what health & human services really mean
- Coastal Horizon, Cape Fear Habitat
- Cape Fear Healthnet, Feast Down East, Coastal Horizons, UNCW/WHA Community Campus, Health Clinics, CIS Baby FAST, Southeastern Mental Health, Good Shepherd Center
- Doctors, clinics
- CFHN, Coastal Care
- Free health clinics/programs

# November 4 Meeting

City Hall

